

Message Text

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ORIGIN DOE-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 SAS-02 ACDA-12
L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08
NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05
/130 R

DRAFTED BY DOE:FMCGOLDRICH
APPROVED BY OES/NET/EST:JBORIGHT
S/AS - P FARLEY
ACDA - F WILLIAMS
OES/NET - L NOSENZO
L/OES - R SLOAN
EUR/RPE - K STOCKER
IO/SCT - A JILLSON (SUBS)
-----019960 301605Z /47

P 301439Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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USIAEA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA STUDY ON PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT

REFS: A. IAEA VIENNA 6491, B. THE HAGUE 4573

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1. FOR VIENNA: PARA 2 IS TEXT OF LETTER WHICH YOU SHOULD
PROVIDE IN RESPONSE TO AGENCY (REF A) ON SUBJECT STUDY.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

I. ZHELUDEV
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

DEAR

"THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY OF RESPONDING TO YOUR LETTER OF JULY 13, 1978, FORWARDING THE IAEA STUDY ON INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM AND SPENT FUEL. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF THE AGENCY TO CONDUCT IMPORTANT STUDIES SUCH AS THIS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO STATES IN EVALUATING POSSIBLE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROMOTING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND AT THE SAME TIME OFFERING POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL BARRIERS TO THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

"THE U.S. APPRECIATES THE WORK AND THOUGHT CONTAINED IN THIS STUDY, AND CONSIDERS IT A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF FUEL CYCLE ARRANGEMENTS. THE U.S. WILL BE REVIEWING IN DETAIL THE IAEA STUDY BOTH IN WORKING GROUPS 4 AND 6 OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) AND IN ANY MEETINGS OF CONSULTANTS THAT MAY BE CONVENED. AS A PRELIMINARY GENERAL COMMENT, THE U.S. BELIEVES THE STUDY PROVIDES A USEFUL FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SPENT FUEL STORAGE REGIME, AND FOR STORAGE OF EXISTING PLUTONIUM STOCKS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WELCOME THE AGENCY RECOGNITION IN STUDY PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MINIMIZING STORED PLUTONIUM INVENTORIES BY CLOSE COORDINATION OF SEPARATION RATES AND DEMONSTRATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLUTONIUM FUEL REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE STUDY COULD MORE CLEARLY ADDRESS THE FULL RANGE OF CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO FURTHER SEPARATION OF PLUTONIUM PRIOR TO ESTABLISHED NEEDS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT PLUTONIUM STORAGE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE EVALUATED IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS MULTINATIONAL CENTERS.

"AS REGARDS THE PROPOSED CONVENING OF CONSULTANTS TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE STUDY ON INTERNATIONAL STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM, THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE IAEA CAN AND SHOULD CARRY OUT ITS OWN STUDIES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR WOULD BE PREMATURE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT INFCE WILL NOT HAVE COMPLETED ITS RELATED EVALUATION EFFORTS UNTIL THE END OF 1979 OR THE BEGINNING OF 1980. AS YOU ARE AWARE, INFCE IS EXAMINING A RANGE OF TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL METHODS FOR MAKING NUCLEAR ENERGY WIDELY AVAILABLE WHILE MINIMIZING THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES PROLIFERATION. MANY OF THESE STUDIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN WORKING GROUP 4 ON

ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL METHODS FOR REPROCESSING, PLUTONIUM HANDLING AND RECYCLE, WILL HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON THE IAEA STUDY ON PLUTONIUM STORAGE AND ON ANY PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLISHING SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT REGIME. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, SEEM APPROPRIATE THAT ANY PROPOSALS ON AN INTERNATIONAL PLUTONIUM STORAGE SYSTEM SHOULD AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THESE STUDIES PRIOR TO BEING SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.

"THE U.S. IS ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT A CONSULTANTS MEETING ON THE SPENT FUEL STORAGE ASPECT OF THE IAEA STUDY WOULD BE USEFUL, AND WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A

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MEETING. IN VIEW OF THE PARTICULARLY PRESSING REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SPENT FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY THAT WILL SOON BE FACING MANY STATES, WE BELIEVE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY AND CONSIDERATION OF THE SPENT FUEL PORTION OF THE IAEA STUDY MAY BE EVEN MORE URGENT THAN FOR THE SEPARATED PLUTONIUM STORAGE ASPECTS OF THE REPORT. THEREFORE, WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE THAT SUCH A MEETING BE HELD IN THE SAME TIME FRAME AS THE PROPOSED MEETING ON PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS.

(INDENT) "SINCERELY, END QUOTE.

3. FOR THE HAGUE: IN RESPONSE TO TERWISSCHA (REF B), YOU COULD PROVIDE COPY OF U.S. REPLY, AND SAY U.S. WILL WANT TO STAY IN CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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